

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
PRESS BRANCH

BRIGADIER GENERAL CLARE HIBBS ARMSTRONG, USA

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Clare Hibbs Armstrong was born in [REDACTED]. He was graduated from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry on April 20, 1917.

His first assignment was with the 17th Infantry, with which he served successively at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Chickamauga Barracks, Georgia; Tampa, Florida, and Camp Meade, Maryland. In November, 1919, he was named operations officer of the Motor Transport Corps at Camp Benning, Georgia, and the following February was transferred to Camp Funston, Kansas, as property officer of the Seventh Division.

In January, 1921, General Armstrong was assigned to the 42nd Infantry at Camp Gaillard, Panama Canal Zone. The following November he was transferred from the Infantry to the Coast Artillery Corps and assigned to the Fourth Company of the Coast Artillery at Fort Amador, Canal Zone.

He returned to the United States in December, 1923, for duty at Fort Hancock, New Jersey, and in July, 1924, became assistant instructor of tactics at the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. In August, 1929, he entered the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and after graduating in June, 1930, took a brief course at the Chemical Warfare School at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.

In November, 1930, General Armstrong went to Fort Santiago, Manila, Philippine Islands, to become assistant for press relations to the assistant chief of staff for intelligence. In March, 1931, he joined the 92nd Coast Artillery (Philippine Scouts) at Fort Mills, Corregidor, Philippine Islands.

General Armstrong was transferred to the Sixth Coast Artillery at Fort Winfield Scott, California, in March, 1932, and in May, 1933, assumed command of the Medford (Oregon) Civilian Conservation Corps District. In August, 1935, he entered the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and upon graduation the following June was named chief of the Personnel Section in the Office of the Chief of Coast Artillery at Washington, D. C. In September, 1938, he became post inspector and war plans officer at the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, and in May, 1939, was named commander of the Service Detachment at the U. S. Military Academy. General Armstrong assumed command of the 86th Coast Artillery Regiment at Camp Haan, California, in May, 1942, and remained in command when it was redesignated the 109th Coast Artillery Group the following January.

He assumed command of the 50th Antiaircraft Brigade at Camp Davis, North Carolina, in July, 1943, and the following February took it to the European theater of operations, where he commanded it until August, 1945. He then was

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appointed antiaircraft officer of the European Theater General Board and later served with the Army Integration Board in that theater.

General Armstrong returned to the United States in March, 1946, and four months later was assigned to the Plans Section of the Army Ground Forces headquarters at Washington, D. C. In January, 1947, he was appointed Military Attache at Brussels, Belgium.

Upon his return to the United States in November, 1950, he assumed command of Camp Stewart, Georgia.

General Armstrong was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility as commanding general of an antiaircraft division at a vital port in Antwerp, Belgium from November 4, 1944, to April 16, 1945. Brigadier General Armstrong so ably met the defenses of this port that it was able to meet without interruption the tremendous requirements of the 12th and 21st Army Corps through the extensive period of German flying bombs. This exceptional performance of duty contributed immeasurably to the Allied victory and was in itself a major operation of the campaign. Through his vast conception of the task to be performed he integrated American, British and Polish antiaircraft artillery into a harmonious and efficient team which ably coped with the enemy's hazardous weapon. Brigadier General Armstrong's accomplishments have won for him the respect and admiration of all with whom he served."

General Armstrong also has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Ribbon.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant on May 15, 1917; to captain (temporary) on August 5, 1917; to captain (permanent) on November 18, 1919; to major (permanent) in March, 1933; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) on July 1, 1940; to colonel (temporary) on December 11, 1941; to brigadier general (temporary) on March 16, 1943; to colonel (permanent) on December 28, 1945. He reverted to his permanent rank of colonel on March 31, 1946, and was promoted to brigadier general (temporary) on October 20, 1950, with date of rank from September 27, 1950.

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Up to date as of 16 November 1950